

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-10 IO-13 CU-04 HEW-06 /102 W

----- 046679

P 212057Z OCT 76

FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8150

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL QUEBEC

UNCLAS MONTREAL 01585

E. O. 11652: N/A; TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJ: QUEBEC ELECTION: ANGLOPHONE CONSTITUENCIES

REF: MONTREAL 1573

1. WOOLING OF DISGRUNTLED ANGLOPHONES HAS BECOME A PRINCIPAL MANEUVER FOR ALL PARTIES IN UPCOMING ELECTION, BUT ALL HAVING DIFFICULTIES IN FINDING "GOOD" ENGLISH-SPEAKING STANDARD BEARERS.

2. PROBLEM IS COMPOUNDED BY NEW INDEPENDENT-MINDEDNESS IN TRADITIONALLY LIBERAL ANGLOPHONE RIDINGS WHICH ARE REFUSING HAVE PRESTIGE CANDIDATES "PARACHUTED" IN. EVEN GEORGE SPRINGATE, POPULAR FOR OPPOSITION TO BILL 22, WAS REPORTEDLY TURNED DOWN BE LIBERAL RIDING MEMBERSHIP IN POINTE CLAIRE AS PROPOSED BY PARTY LEADERSHIP. (HIS SEAT WAS STE-ANNE.) HE SUBSEQUENTLY ANNOUNCED RETIREMENT FROM POLITICS BUT IS STILL BEING PURSUED BY BOTH LIBERALS AND UNION NATIONALE.

3. SPECULATION BRYCE MACKASAY WILL JOIN PROVINCIAL LIBERAL FOLD HEIGHTENED BY SPEECH LAST NIGHT IN TORONTO WHICH SOUNDED MUCH LIKE FAREWELL TO OTTAWA. HE IS MEETING TONIGHT WITH LAKESHORE-LACHINE LIBERALS AND ANNOUNCEMENT EXPECTED THEN. MEANWHILE, SPOKESMAN FOR ONE OF RIDINGS (ROBERT BALDWIN) BEING SUGGESTED FOR HIM SAYS "WE DON'T GO FOR PARACHUTING" ... "IF HE WANTS TO

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GO INTO PROVINCIAL POLITICS HE SHOULD RUN IN VERDUN" (HIS

FEDERAL RIDING).

4. AT PRESS CONFERENCE OF UN'S BIRON YESTERDAY, PARTY ORGANIZERS WERE BUSIER LOOKING FOR ANGLOPHONE CANDIDATES THAN TAKING CARE OF PRESS. FOUR ANGLOPHONES HAVE BEEN NAMED TO DATE--NONE VERY WELL KNOWN EVEN LOCALLY WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTION CITY COUNCILLOR VICTOR PODD--BUT PARTY STILL TRYING LURE SPRINGATE TO ITS SIDE WITH "REPEAL OF BILL 22" PLANK AND "HOLDING NOTRE-DAME-DE-GRACE OPEN FOR HIM" IN CASE HE CHANGES HIS MIND.

5. LIBERAL CANDIDATE-HUNTER ACKNOWLEDGES PROBLEM, SAYING ONLY "SIX TO TEN" POSSIBLES LOCATED TO DATE. BOURASSA IS REPORTED TO HAVE PERSONALLY REQUESTED IAN MACDONALD, LOCAL GAZETTE COLUMNIST, TO RUN. MACDONALD ALLEGEDLY GIVING THIS SERIOUS THOUGHT BUT, IN VIEW NOT-INFREQUENT SCATHING REPORTS ON BOURASSA AND LIBERAL GOVERNMENT IN PAST, MIGHT HAVE CREDIBILITY PROBLEM IF HE ACCEPTS.

6. MOUNT ROYAL'S JOHN CIACCIA, PREVIOUSLY RUMORED TO BE STEPPING DOWN, HAS ANNOUNCED CANDIDACY FOR REELECTION "BECAUSE IF I DIDN'T, IT WOULD CREATE IMPRESSION THAT A WHOLE SECTION OF THE POPULATION IS ABANDONING QUEBEC." CIACCIA ALSO FOUGHT BILL 22 AND, WITH SPRINGATE, WAS SUSPENDED FROM CAUCUS FOR ONE MONTH FOR VOTING AGAINST IT IN 1974. (SUSPENSION WAS DURING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY RECESS AND HAD NO PRACTICAL EFFECT BUT ADDED TO POPULARITY OF "DISSIDENT" LIBERAL MEMBERS.)

7. LATEST MANIFESTATION ENGLISH AND ETHNIC VOTES BEING TAKEN SERIOUSLY COMES FROM FEDERAL FRANCOPHONES MOVING TO PROVINCIAL LIBERAL AID. FIRST TO ANNOUNCE, ROLAND COMTOIS, WHO IS GIVING UP FEDERAL TERREBONNE SEAT TO RUN IN L'ASSOMPTION (A PART OF TERREBONNE), EMPHASIZED HIS OPPOSITION TO THE LANGUAGE TESTS REQUIRED UNDER BILL 22 AND HOPES THAT THIS CAN BE CHANGED. JEAN MARCHAND, FORMER FEDERAL MINISTER WHO ANNOUNCED HIS MOVE TO PROVINCIAL POLITICS YESTERDAY, ALSO ANNOUNCED HE HAD REQUIRED "CONDITIONS" TO BE MET BY PREMIER BOURASSA INCLUDING RECONSIDERATION OF BILL 22 AND/OR ITS IMPLEMENTATION. UN HAS REPEAL OF BILL 22 AS PLANK IN PLATFORM AND DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE INTENDS CHANGE SCHOOL SYSTEM SO BILL WILL BE UNNECESSARY--ALL CHILDREN WILL BE GIVEN EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME BILINGUAL.

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8. BECAUSE MUCH OF THE CONTROVERSY IN THE ANGLOPHONE RIDINGS SWIRLS AROUND THE LANGUAGE-OF-EDUCATION ISSUE, THE "ETHNICS", EVEN MORE OUTRAGED ON THIS MATTER, ARE USUALLY LUMPED IN THE SAME BAG. IT IS INTERESTING IN THIS REGARD THAT THE LIBERAL PARTY ANNOUNCED LAST NIGHT THE CANDIDACY, ALTHOUGH THE RIDING IS NOT FIRM, OF DON TADDEO ON THEIR TICKET. TADDEO HAS BEEN THE PRINCIPAL SPOKESMAN FOR THE "REBELLIOUS" PARENTS, PRIMARILY ITALIAN, WHO HAVE BEEN "SITTING IN" WITH THEIR CHILDREN IN CATHOLIC ANGLOPHONE SCHOOLS FOR APPROXI-

MATELY ONE MONTH IN PROTEST AGAINST THE CHILDREN BEING DENIED
ENROLLMENT UNDER BILL 22. THIS APPARENT VOLTA FACE OF TADDEO
WAS HARBINGERED, PERHAPS, ON THE UNVEILING OF A STATUE OF
CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS AT WHICH TIME HE PUBLICLY ACCUSED EDUCATION
MINISTER BIENVENUE OF HAVING MADE THE DECISION THAT THE CHILDREN
COULD NOT ENTER ENGLISH SCHOOLS AGAINST THE DESIRE OF PREMIER
BOURASSA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, OFFICIAL LANGUAGE, ANGLOPHONE COUNTRIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MONTRE01585
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760396-1312
From: MONTREAL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761029/aaaaayop.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MONTREAL 1573
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 AUG 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 AUG 2004 by cookms>; APPROVED <03 JAN 2005 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: QUEBEC ELECTION: ANGLOPHONE CONSTITUENCIES
TAGS: PINT, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006